



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY
Oil, Gas & Mining

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Scott M. Matheson, Governor
Temple A. Reynolds, Executive Director
Cleon B. Feight, Division Director

September 9, 1982

Memo to File:

RE: Field Tour/Phone Conversation
Western Clay Company
Limestone Mine
Bentonite Pit
ACT/041/004
ACT/041/

On August 2, 1982, Tom Portle from the Division visited the above mentioned operations. He was accompanied by Tom Robison, General Manager for Western Clay.

The limestone pit was toured first. The area can be seen from highway 89 about five miles north of Salina. Existing pits, active mining areas and proposed mining areas were viewed. Current operations are advancing to the north (down dip). Soil (approximately one foot depth) is stripped and pushed to the side while overburden is drilled and blasted to get to the Flagstaff limestone. Limestone is transported to Aurora for processing and shipment. A recent fire at the plant has resulted in a decrease in production.

Grazing (sheep) occurs in the pit area in spring. Dominant plant species include saltbush, cheat grass, horsebrush, rabbitbrush and big sage. The operator employs between 15 and 25 persons.

The bentonite pit is located North of Redmond. Mining occurred here in the 1940's and several remnant pits are visible in proximity to the current operations. Mr. Portle informed Mr. Robison that it would be prudent to document these past disturbances. Soil is stockpiled to the north of the current disturbance. A natural impoundment collects disturbed area runoff and is pumped to the west. Soil depth varies from six to eight inches in general to up to three feet in some of the drainages.

Species observed in this location included Indian ricegrass, sand dropseed, cheatgrass, grease wood, and pepperweed.

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On September 8, Mr. Portle spoke with Mr. Robison regarding the status of the permit application. The help of BLM and SCS representatives have been enlisted. The old pits have been photodocumented. Mr. Robison indicated that the application should be ready for submission by late September.

THOMAS L. PORTLE *TLP*
RECLAMATION SOILS SPECIALIST

cc: John Blake, Lands
Sue Linner, OGM
Tom Tetting, OGM

TLP:sc